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RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE 4670
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE 1445
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 1075
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0841
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE 1801
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE 1810
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/FBI WASHINGTON DC
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC
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RHMFISS/CDR USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PESHAWAR 000064

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 3/30/2019

TAGS: [PTER](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#)

SUBJECT: SUICIDE BOMBER ATTACK AT A MOSQUE FREQUENTED BY SECURITY FORCES

CLASSIFIED BY: Michael A. Via, Acting Principal Officer,
Peshawar, Department of State.

REASON: 1.4 (a), (b), (d)

Summary

11. (C) A Suicide bomber attack killed at least 40, including security forces personnel and injured more than 100 at a mosque during Friday prayers March 27. While no claim of responsibility for the attack has been made, the mosque is near a security check post in Khyber Agency, along the coalition supply route between Peshawar and the Afghanistan border. In February a clash between militants and security forces at the check post killed four suspected taliban although it is too early to tell if this was retaliation for that clash or part of what appears to be an ongoing campaign to impact coalition supplies. End Summary.

Suicide Attack

12. (C) A Suicide bomber attack killed at least 40 including security forces personnel and injured more than 100 at a mosque during Friday prayers March 27. RSO contacts claim the number killed was nearly 80. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

What Was The Target?

13. (C) The Jamrood tehsil mosque, the site of the attacked is 18 miles from Landi Khotal, near a security check post in Khyber Agency, along the coalition supply route between Peshawar and the border. Among the dead were at least eight security forces personnel from the Khyber Rifles and local Khassadar forces (tribal security) according to the Khyber Political Agent. The check post normally has 80 personnel on duty at a time and some of the security forces killed were believed to be from the check post attending Friday prayers.

Why Attack Now?

14. (C) In February a clash between militants and security forces at the check post killed four suspected taliban which locals point to as a motive for retaliation at the mosque frequented by

security forces personnel. (Note: Post has no other information on who might be responsible.

End note).

Comment

15. (C) The attack fits the pattern used by militants against supporters of the government whether civilian or military, although the numbers killed and injured was higher than normal. In February a clash between militants and security forces at the check post killed four suspected taliban although it is too early to tell if this was retaliation for that clash or part of what appears to be an ongoing campaign to impact coalition supplies. It is one more example of the lethality of the insurgency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of the Northwest Frontier Province.

VIA